



**Martin O'Malley, Governor Anthony Brown, Lieutenant Governor
Israel C. Patoka, Executive Director**

**Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
Jane Nishida, Chair**

As a unit of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs advises the Governor and State agencies on matters relating to the economic, workforce and community development of the Asian Pacific American population in Maryland.

January 11, 2013

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Governor O'Malley Proclaims Korean American Day in Maryland

A proclamation was issued today on behalf of Governor Martin O'Malley designating January 13, 2013 as Korean American Day in Maryland. The State's recognition coincides with the national celebration declared by Congress in 2003. The date of January 13 was selected in commemoration of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States on January 13, 1903.

During an afternoon ceremony at the State House, Israel "Izzy" Patoka, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, presented a total of 14 proclamations to Korean dignitaries from across the state, including James Suh, President of the Korean American Association of Maryland, Doo Seok Jang, President of the Korean Society of Maryland and Linda Han, President of the Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area. State Senator Karen Montgomery and State Delegate Susan Lee were also in attendance at the ceremony.

Since the first Korean immigrants landed on U. S. soil, their descendants have created a vibrant and progressive community, whose members have fought to preserve our nation's democratic way of life. The Korean American community of Maryland is characterized by an intense work ethic, a strong value of education and a thriving entrepreneurial spirit.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 1.4 million Koreans live in the United States, with 49,000 residing in the State of Maryland. The state ranks 9th among the top 10 states with the largest Korean populations.

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